

UMN Extension Program Conference

Poster Abstracts 2017

Public value posters

1. The Watershed Game - A reflection of public value generated from 10+ years of implementation: Outcomes, impacts and lessons learned

John Bilotta, Extension Educator, Water Resource Management and Policy; Cynthia Hagley, Extension Educator; Michelle Gutsch, PhD Candidate, UMN-Duluth

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The Watershed Game, developed by Minnesota Extension and Minnesota Sea Grant Programs, has been used for over 10 years. Its value is demonstrated by broad and effective implementation across Minnesota and over 13 states by more than 260 users. We will present a summary of a comprehensive evaluation in 2017 that is capturing the outcomes and impacts the game has had on students, natural resource educators and policy leaders.

2. Local option sales tax: Greater MN counties consider resources for transportation programs and projects

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Merritt Bussiere, Extension Educator, Community Economics; Ryan Pesch, Extension Educator, Community Economics

After decades of federal and state budget cuts, county transportation resources have shrunk as costs have increased. State law allows rural counties to enact a local option sales tax. This poster highlights the public value of Community Economics' tax analyses. This approach helps county leaders make evidence-based policy decisions about taxes, providing unbiased estimates of potential revenue and what proportion of the tax might be realized from permanent residents vs. visitors, travelers and seasonal residents.

3. Citizen scientists influencing forest invasive species management in Minnesota

Dawn Littleton, Invasive Plant Program Coordinator; Angie Gupta, Forestry Extension Educator

Minnesota's Citizen Scientists (CS) have been engaged in invasive species early detection and management programs. Since 2008 these programs have empowered CS to collect data and manage a variety of invasive species. Forest Pest First Detector (FPFD) volunteers were involved in the critical first-find of Emerald Ash Borer (EAB) in Minnesota in 2009. Over a four-year period, the public value of this volunteer-led invasive species management is over \$3 million dollars and has impacted over 9,500 acres.

4. Working together to increase efficiencies and demonstrate public value of volunteer programs

Andrea Lorek Strauss, Extension Educator, Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Education; Kimberly Carrier, MN Landscape Arboretum; Dalicia Davis, Background Check Process Coordinator; Emily Dombeck, Forestry Program Coordinator; Britt Forsberg, Program Coordinator; Diane Greiwe, Volunteer Manager, Master Gardener Program; Angela Gupta, Extension Educator, Forestry; Amy Rager, Extension Educator, Fish, Wildlife and Conservation Education; Jennifer Schultz, Wasp Watchers Program Coordinator; Megan Weber, Extension Educator, Aquatic Invasive Species

This poster will describe a collaboration of seven natural resource and horticulture volunteer programs affiliated with Extension and the joint projects that are demonstrating the public value of these programs. Two sample projects include aligning and aggregating evaluation measures to document collective behavior changes shared across all our programs, and calculating Return on Volunteer Investment (ROVI) figures as a tool to illustrate public value of these programs.

5. Taking a place based approach to Extension health and nutrition work

Evalyn Carbrey, SNAP-Ed Regional Coordinator; Cassandra Silveira, Extension Educator, Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program

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This poster will review the Place Based Approach in two specific neighborhoods in the metro area: the Frogtown-Rondo neighborhood in Saint Paul and the Near North neighborhood in Minneapolis. The poster will explore the initial stages of this work, and how taking a team approach can improve connectivity with the communities in which we are working, as it allows for more in depth programming and flexibility, utilizing the skills of all members of the team.

6. A vibrant and healthy Milan area: Building a community park to promote rural health and well-being through community engagement, connecting cultures and innovative community solutions

Serdar Mamedov, Extension Educator, Family Development; Mary Marczak, Director, Urban Family Development and Evaluation, Bonnie Christiansen, SNAP-Ed Regional Coordinator

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Today, growing numbers of immigrants are choosing to settle in rural America. Very often, those rural places may not provide immigrants with what they want. Immigration to places with declining populations, limited resources and weak social service infrastructures may have a significant impact. It can quickly turn into a negative experience for both long-term residents and new immigrants. Extension can help to address some of the problems related to rural immigration.

7. I CAN Prevent Diabetes works in Minnesota

Sara VanOffelen, NW SNAP-Ed Regional Coordinator; Bonnie Christenson, SW SNAP-Ed Regional Coordinator; Susan Draves, SE SNAP-Ed Regional Coordinator

The Individuals and Communities Acting Now to Prevent Diabetes (ICPD) program teaches adults a series of lessons over one year for reducing their risk of diabetes. Research indicates that a 5 – 7% weight loss is effective in reducing the risk of Type 2 diabetes. SNAP-Ed educators who are certified lifestyle coaches offer classes in English and Spanish at sites that serve low-income audiences. After three years of implementation data, Extension's ICPD program has successfully obtained recognition status by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

8. Evaluating and re-developing a long-standing program: The Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E) strategies program

Michael Darger, Extension Specialist, Community Economics; Brigid Tuck, Economic Impact Analyst

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Our poster offers lessons learned in the evaluation and re-development of a long-standing Community Vitality program, Business Retention & Expansion (BR&E). The program is delivered to two to four communities annually. Since re-development, we have documented increasing levels of behavior change (71% increase). More recently, ripple effect mapping has increased our outcome documentation tremendously. Our traditional target audience of economic development organizations (EDOs) is disproportionately dominant culture yet we've reached beyond it to include two minority-serving groups.

9. Fostering a stronger pathway and partnership

Silvia Alvarez de Davila, Extension Educator, Family Development; Mary Jo Katras, Program Leader, Family Development; Jessica Russo and Joanna Tzenis, Extension Educators, Youth Development

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This poster illustrates how Family Development (FD) and Youth Development (YD) teamed up to create a combined program model that addresses educational disparities from both youth development and family development lenses. By bringing together FD's Open Doors curriculum, which helps parents/caretakers learn and navigate the US educational system and make informed decisions about post-secondary education, and YD's Urban Youth Lead and Urban Youth Movement curricula, which help youth create goals for educational achievement through and beyond high school, the model creates a combined pathway to higher education.

10. Hennepin County Sentenced to Serve Horticulture Certification Program

Sam Bauer, Extension Educator, Horticulture; Julie Weisenhorn, Extension Educator, Horticulture; Gary Wyatt, Extension Educator, Forestry; Dean Herzfeld, Program Coordinator, Pesticide Safety; Tana Haugen-Brown, Extension Educator and Co-Coordinator, Pesticide Safety/Environ Education

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For four years, a team of AFNR educators developed and led a horticulture training program for Hennepin County Sentenced to Serve crew leaders who manage offenders carrying out horticulture tasks for government and commercial buildings. This program is a three-part certification program with training in landscape maintenance, turfgrass management, and pesticide and environmental safety. Along with educating crew leaders so they feel comfortable training offenders to carry out maintenance tasks, an additional hope is to help offenders enjoy the work and thus encourage them to seek future employment opportunities in this area.

Research posters

11. Flowers for pollinators: Are annual flowers attractive to pollinator insects?

Julie Weisenhorn, Extension Educator, Horticulture; Mary Meyer, Professor and Extension Horticulturist; Steven Poppe, Research Scientist

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Annual flowers have long been popular additions to landscapes. They add instant color, texture and beauty, making them extremely attractive to consumers and the horticulture industry. Considering their popularity, could annual flowers add beauty while attracting pollinators to our landscapes? Observation and insect counts are used to determine if annual flowers attract pollinators with the goal of producing Extension recommendations of pollinator-friendly plants for homeowners, commercial landscapers and garden centers.

12. Principles of effective informal e-learning: A theory-building metasynthesis of qualitative research

Alison Holland, Academic Technologist

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There is a great deal of agreement that online learner engagement and course completion rates are often low, especially in the non-credit setting. But while there is a breadth of research around how to engage online learners in traditional courses, the literature does not address the inherent challenges in assuming courses are an effective way to provide educational content to those not seeking credit or certification. This poster aims to pick up the conversation here.

13. Focusing on formative assessment to meet learner needs through online nutrition education

Laura Perdue, Extension Educator; Megan King, Regional Coordinator; Alison Holland, Academic Technologist

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In-person education can present many barriers to participation, particularly for low-income Minnesotans. Online education is often seen as the solution for these barriers, but engagement and completion rates in these courses are often low. This poster will describe the process taken to develop online education to extend the reach of SNAP-Ed programming. It will focus on the formative evaluation conducted and how the plans for the course evolved as a result of that research.

14. When rental housing is out of reach: Using the spectrum of prevention to address housing

Lori Hendrickson, Extension Educator, Family Resiliency; Becky Hagen Jokela, Extension Educator, Family Resiliency

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Rental housing cost are increasing at alarming proportions. From 2016-2017 the amount a renter household needed to earn to afford a modest apartment increased by 5%. To address this issue, the University of Minnesota Extension Center for Family Development rolled out the revised RentWise curriculum. This session will discuss RentWise teaching strategies and evaluation methods in the context of the spectrum of prevention, highlighting the impact on families, communities and policy.

15. Decolonizing nutrition science

Craig Hassel, Extension Nutritionist, Food Science and Nutrition

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Decolonization aims to displace Western/biomedical systems of thought from the reified position they have come to hold in our minds and institutions, replacing them with an ecology of knowledges that reflect and embrace the multiplicity of systems of thought and cultural knowledge production within the human community. This study approaches decolonizing work by exploring implicit dimensions (tacit values and assumptions) within professional MPH, dietetics and nutrition programs acting as structural/systemic barriers that discourage indigenous scholar participation.

16. Growing 4-H opportunities together: Volunteers in vision and action

Karyn Santl, Extension Educator, Youth Development; Rebecca Harrington, Extension Educator and Volunteer Systems Director, Youth Development

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Growing 4-H Opportunities Together: Volunteers in Vision and Action (GOT-VIVA) is a process that develops a framework for local programs to create strong volunteer systems while addressing county priorities. This research poster will share the summary of data from counties who have completed the GOT-VIVA process. Results indicated outcomes were met in creating a focused direction for the local 4-H program, strengthening volunteer systems and increasing opportunities for youth.

17. Improving the food environment in child care settings: Using focus group input to develop a culinary nutrition education training for family child care providers

Mary Schroeder, Extension Educator, Health and Nutrition; Anne Dybsetter, Extension Educator, Health and Nutrition

Child care settings present an opportunity to improve food environments for children. As programs are developed to support child care providers in creating healthy food environments, it is important to engage directly with child care providers. To do so, Extension conducted focus groups with family child care providers. The results of the focus group informed the development of a six-week culinary nutrition education course for child care providers.

18. Eat, drink and be healthy: Engaging youth in program development and teaching

Joyce Serido, Associate Professor, Family Social Science; Anita Harris Hering, Extension Educator, Military Families; Jodi Dworkin, Associate Department Head

Family Resiliency and Health and Nutrition developed an innovative program for young people to increase their knowledge and change their behavior around healthy food choices. This poster describes steps teen teachers engaged in to adapt and present hands-on lessons on physical activity and creating balance in food and drink, movements and communities. It also outlines

why leadership of teen teachers is an effective, sustainable and maintainable approach and presents pilot evaluation results to inform future programming.